GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:896
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2002
WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS
SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan made a formal offer to India for talks on a phased withdrawal of troops to defuse the tension;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government have made it clear to Pakistan to stop cross border terrorism before asking for withdrawal of troops; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a)-(d) The main source of tensions in relations between India and Pakistan, is Pakistan`s continued policy of sponsoring cross border terrorism in India.

Pakistani leaders have been making calls for a withdrawal of Indian troops from the Line of Control and the International Boundary, even though Pakistan`s sponsorship of cross border terrorism continues unabated.

India remains firm in its resolve to take all necessary measures to preserve its security and territorial integrity, and to resist terrorism until it is decisively crushed. Pakistan must end its sponsorship of cross border terrorism and use of terrorism as an instrument of state policy. In this context we expect Pakistan to end the infiltration of terrorists across the Line of Control and International Boundary, and to stop the funding and financing of terrorist groups. Pakistan must also take action on the list of 20 fugitives from law who have received safe haven in Pakistan, so that they can be brought to justice for the crimes they have committed.